

# Cheshire Historical Society News

Volume 45, No. 1

*Keeping Cheshire's History Alive!**Spring 2022*

The Cheshire Historical Society (CHS) limited our public offerings this past winter, but a lot has been happening “behind the scenes.” Please join us as we share with you our updates since you last heard from us in our Fall 2021 Newsletter.

## RECENT HISTORY

A recap of events involving the Historical Society since the publication of our last newsletter

- After accepting the role of Town Historian, **Diane Calabro** stepped down as CHS President on December 31, 2021. Vice-President **Cara Luciani** became interim President on January 1 and will continue until a new President is elected in April at our annual general membership meeting.
- A second round of membership renewals has gone out with a note to anyone who has not yet sent in their membership dues reminding them to renew.
- The Society hired accountant **Dan Massucci** and with the help of Treasurer **Shirley Brady** and **Leo Rider**, also adopted Quickbooks to help with financial reporting and transparency.
- During the January Board Meeting, **Cayetana Navarro** announced the Society was awarded an Operating Support Grant (\$6,300) and a SHARP Grant (\$10,000) to support Strategic Plan Implementation: Collections Assessment. Both grants were donated by the Connecticut Humanities Council. The SHARP Grant was the result of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.
- In early March, ten curators in training, under the guidance of **Kathy Craughwell-Varda**, evaluated five rooms in the House to which they will then produce reports and recommendations for consideration as we look to refresh our presentation as part of our Strategic Plan implementation.



*Curators in training at the Society*

## STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Last year, the CHS Board of Directors approved the Strategic Plan received from Museum Consultant, **Kathy Craughwell-Varda**. Some of the goals that the Society will be working towards include inspiring interest in local history, redesigning and re-envisioning exhibit areas and programs, as well as increasing our visibility while engaging the community and collaborating with local partners. During this past February Board Meeting, the Board of Director's voted to follow the recommendation of the Strategic Plan Committee to start reviewing and re-envisioning our Collections. In order to properly and safely do so, **starting May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Cheshire Historical Society will be limiting visitors to appointment only.** During this time volunteers will be reviewing and documenting every item within the Society's possession. The Society invites all members and members of the public to volunteer if interested. If you would like to help, please email us at [cheshirehistory@che.necoxmail.com](mailto:cheshirehistory@che.necoxmail.com) or call (203) 272-2574. Please check our website for ongoing updates.

**BOARD NOMINATIONS**

Nominations for the 2022-2023 term

We are pleased to share our nominations for the 2022-2023 term of Cheshire Historical Society board members. Voting will take place during our annual general member meeting on Saturday, April 23, 7 p.m. at the Harmon Leonard Jr. Youth Center.

**President:** Cayetana Navarro

**Vice President:** Douglas Olson

**Treasurer:** Shirley Brady

**Curator:** Remains open, please let us know if you are interested! (Our consultant, Kathy Craughwell-Varda, will be taking on some of the tasks associated with this role)

**Archivist:** Karen Gionet Zentek

**Directors:** Colleen Fitzgerald (2021-2024), Janet Edwards (2021-2024), Will D'Agostino (2021-2024)

**PUTTING THE "FUN" IN FUNDRAISING**

Update: Fundraising Campaigns

**Fundraising Recap**

We would like to thank all who donated to our organization. Your support enabled us to offset some of our lost revenue due to COVID (notably, no Spirits Alive) and meet some of the priorities that we set last year. As you know, we are an all-volunteer nonprofit group that works to keep Cheshire's history alive through our museum's collections, exhibitions, and programs. We rely on donations to help us create and maintain exhibits that cover Cheshire's history from the Native Americans to present day, as well as provide daily upkeep of the Hitchcock-Phillips House that was built in 1785.

**Online Giving Campaign**

This year the Society will be participating in the [Give Local Greater Waterbury and Litchfield Hills](#) online fundraising campaign from **April 26, 7 a.m. to April 27, 7:00 p.m.** Give Local has special opportunities throughout to increase your impact with special awards granted during designated timeframes. Please keep an eye on your email as well as our social media for more information about the campaigns and links to donate as we get closer.

If you don't want to wait or can't contribute online, we also accept checks made out to Cheshire Historical Society which can be sent to 43 Church Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410. Thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the Hitchcock-Phillips House in the future.

**MAKING HISTORY**

A look at upcoming events involving the Historical Society

**April 23 – General Member Meeting**

Vote on the board slate for next term and catch up on what's been going on at the Society.

**April 26-27 – Give Local Greater Waterbury and Litchfield Hills**

Support the Society during our spring online fundraising campaign.

**June 11 – CT Open House Day**

Join us at the Hitchcock-Phillips House for a fun-filled day.

Please keep an eye on our website and social media accounts for updates on these and other events involving the Cheshire Historical Society.

Website: [cheshirehistory.org](http://cheshirehistory.org)

Facebook: [@CheshireHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/CheshireHistoricalSociety) and [Spirits Alive Cemetery Tour](https://www.facebook.com/SpiritsAliveCemeteryTour)

Instagram: [@cheshirehistory](https://www.instagram.com/cheshirehistory) and [@cheshirespirits](https://www.instagram.com/cheshirespirits)

## ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

<b>Income</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
Memberships	\$ 3,140.00	\$ 4,255.00
Donations	7,059.05	6,001.66
Boutique Sales	1,186.00	0.00
Book Sales	82.00	341.79
CF for GNH	6,824.60	6,746.28
Grants	6,319.00	14,679.80
Interest	1,429.87	90.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 26,040.52</b>	<b>\$ 32,115.04</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
Phone/Internet	\$ 1,343.22	\$ 1,382.36
Gas	3,782.16	3,714.18
Electricity	957.82	811.82
Water	357.48	387.50
ADT	933.28	984.62
Insurance	2,539.00	2,845.00
Technology Services	389.25	389.14
Professional Dues	383.00	253.00
Tuition	110.00	149.00
Charitable Contributions	314.41	395.00
Clerical	1,196.07	627.71
Archival Materials	0.00	836.33
House and Grounds	5,187.53	3,677.07
Strategic Planning	3,737.26	1,780.88
Miscellaneous	677.30	0.00
Marketing	0.00	864.57
Rent	0.00	10.00
Books	0.00	487.75
ISBNs	0.00	295.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 21,897.78</b>	<b>\$ 19,890.93</b>
<b>Assets</b>	<b>March 31,2021</b>	<b>March 31,2022</b>
People's United Bank		
Checking	\$ 37,528.44	\$ 49,665.67
Money Market	65,372.72	118,430.74
CD	102,970.86	0.00
Community Foundation		
For Greater New Haven	\$177,197.31	\$218,200.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$383,069.33</b>	<b>\$386,297.38</b>

**CHESHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Board of Directors**

**Officers:**

President	Cara Luciani ( <i>interm</i> )
Vice President	Cara Luciani
Treasurer	Shirley Brady
Recording Secretary	Mitzi Romano

**Directors:**

Jaime Grant	2019-2022
Janet Edwards	2021-2024
Colleen Fitzgerald	2021-2024
Will D'Agostino	2021-2024
Lois Van Almkerk	2021-2024, Charter Member

**Appointed Positions:**

Archivist – Karen Gionet Zentek
Curator, Assistant – Native American Studies – Eric Nelson
Student Volunteer Curator – Chris D'Agostino



The Cheshire Historical Society is looking for volunteers to help with events, collections, programs and more at the Hitchcock-Phillips House Museum. This is a great way to learn about our community and meet others around town with similar interests. If you're interested in volunteering, email us at [cheshirehistory@che.necoxmail.com](mailto:cheshirehistory@che.necoxmail.com), give us a call at (203) 272-2574.